



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

September 25, 2000

Barrett Fountos, M.S.
Health Scientist
Office of International Health Programs
U.S. Department of Energy
19901 Germantown Road EH-63/270 CC
Germantown, MD 20874

Dear Dr. Fountos:

In November 1999, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) sponsored the first Tri-National Meeting on Collaborative Chornobyl Thyroid Research Projects in Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting brought together scientists from Belarus, Ukraine and the United States to discuss the ongoing collaborative studies of thyroid cancer and other thyroid disease among individuals who were exposed as children to ^{131}I as a consequence of the accident at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power plant in Ukraine in April 1986. Collaborators from the three countries had an opportunity to interact with each other and discuss various issues pertaining to the parallel projects being conducted in Belarus (BelAm) and Ukraine (UkrAm), including the study progress and future plans. One important concept introduced at the meeting was that the results from the studies in both countries would ultimately be joined, and that the collaborators should move forward with that in mind. Attendees found the meeting to be extremely beneficial and it was concluded that these meetings should be held on a periodic basis.

I would like to invite you to attend the second Tri-National meeting sponsored by NCI from November 13-15, 2000 at the Doubletree Hotel in Rockville, Maryland. The purpose of this meeting will be to review progress made since November 1999, and to discuss future plans.

On November 16, I invite you to attend a workshop on "Urinary Iodine" to be held at the same location. Participants of the workshop will focus on the importance and/or necessity of conducting urine iodine measurements on the study subjects in the cohort.

The logistical arrangements for the meeting will be handled by Courtesy Associates, Inc. You will be contacted soon regarding your plans for attendance.

I hope you will be able to join us.

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Fraumeni, Jr., M.D.
Director
Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics